

Hearing sounds of music was a magical experience

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Re: Music to their ears, Oct. 21.

I have finally lived it, the first experience in my 58 years of listening to a live performance of classical music. On Tuesday night, I used the new assistive listening system at the National Arts Centre. A special adapter for my earphones allowed me to hear the beautiful music of the NAC Orchestra.

Well, what can I say: words just don't seem like enough. It was a magical, wonderful evening. I'm absolutely blown over, I'm stunned and I'm also very humbled.



Thanks to a new listening system at the National Arts Centre, Louise Normand could actually hear a classical music concert.

Pat McGrath, *The Ottawa Citizen*

I could hear the true quality of instruments that I had never heard before, such as the soft tinkling notes of Jon Kimura Parker's piano, the clarinet's soft melody, the hum of the cello. I do not know the names of some of the instruments but I got to hear their sounds and discern them individually.

Most of my life, I have been profoundly hard of hearing. But in 2001, I received a cochlear implant from the provider, Advanced Bionics. I am grateful the audiologists at The Ottawa Hospital's cochlear implant clinic for their dedication in ensuring I get the maximum benefit from my implant.

But I would need assistance if I would ever listen to live music. The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association introduced me to the Sennheiser adaptive technology and encouraged me to participate in this experiment at the National Arts Centre which put this project in motion.

How do I thank the NAC's David Ship, his staff and team of super technicians who not only made sure the system was installed and functional but ensured that it functioned to its maximum.

And then there are Harvey and Louise Glatt, without whose generous donation to the NAC and instigation, none of this would have happened. To them I express my utmost heartfelt thanks, but thank you just doesn't seem like enough.

The joy and the gratitude I've experienced are utterly unexplainable but will live in my heart forever. Harvey and Louise, thank you, thank you thank you a million times! I have such a sense of gratitude that is so strong -- how lucky I am to benefit from this technology that has benefited my life so much.

Louise Normand,

Orléans